

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

### STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – TURKEY

#### COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Italy, Chile, Sweden and Thailand)

Intersessional Meetings

30 June – 2 July 2020

#### Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Turkey

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Turkey of updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### Mine casualties in 2019

2. The Committee observed that Turkey reported 100 casualties 80 men and 4 boys (injured) and 14 men, 1 boy and 1 girl (killed) by victim activated improvised explosive devices. Turkey indicates that of the total recorded casualties 46 were soldiers and 54 were civilians. This represents an increase of nearly 50% from the previous year (51 reported in 2018).

#### Establish or strengthen of a centralised database (Action #35)

3. The Committee would welcome information on the existence or strengthening of a centralised database to maintain information on mine victims and others, such as persons with disabilities.

#### Integrating victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks and designation of a government entity to oversee the integration (Action #33)

4. The Committee observed that Turkey reported on the coordination between the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MOFLSS) and the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) on reintegration of mine victims. The Committee also observed that Turkey indicated in its 2019 Article 7 Report its intention to develop “technical and legal infrastructure” for the provision of assistance to mine victims in an integrated manner. The Committee would welcome information on any progress made in this regard.

#### Developing and implementing measurable, realistic and time-bound national action plan (Action #33)

5. The Committee observed that last year Turkey had reported on the leading role of the MOFLSS which addresses victim assistance through its Strategic Plan (2018-2022). The Committee would welcome information on efforts that may have been invested to further integrate the needs of mine victims in the plan in accordance with the Oslo Action Plan. The Committee would also welcome further on budgets available for the implementation of victim assistance aspects of the plan and consideration of gender and diversity in the plan and its implementation.

#### Removing barriers including physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers to access such services (Action #33)

6. The Committee would welcome any progress or challenges in removing barriers that may interrupt or prevent mine victims' access to services and would welcome information on this matter.

**Applying multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Action #34)**

7. The Committee welcome information on efforts made to apply multi-sectoral efforts to meet the needs and rights of mine victims in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Access to first aid and ongoing emergency medical care (Action #36)**

8. The Committee would welcome information on progress achieved in increasing access to first aid or emergency response and medical care for new casualties/mine survivors in 2019.

**Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)**

9. The Committee would welcome information on progress gained in creating or strengthening national referral mechanism or developing national directory of services in order to ensure survivors receive support more effectively and efficiently.

**Access to rehabilitation services including physiotherapy, assistive devices and occupational therapy (Action #38)**

10. The Committee observed that as in 2019 Turkey reported the availability of “emergency health service and permanent health service; physical rehabilitation and psychological support” through private and State funded rehabilitation centres. Turkey had also reported that all matters related to rehabilitation and support of mine/IED victims were regulated by the “2828 Social Services Act” and “Law number 5378 on the Disabled People”. The Committee would welcome information on progress made in implementing the laws as well as information on consideration of occupational therapy in services provided to mine victims.

**Access to psychological and psychosocial services including peer-to-peer support (Action #38)**

11. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made in meeting psychological and psychosocial needs of mine victims or providing peer-to-peer support in 2019.

**Access to social and economic inclusion services, including in rural and remote areas (Action #39)**

12. The Committee observed that Turkey reported that 4,515 mine victims were provided with social and economic support within the scope of “Public Quota for Disabled”. The Committee would welcome further information - disaggregated by age, gender and disability - on mine victims including those living in rural and remote areas that have received the social and economic support in 2019.

**Taking measure for safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies (Action #40)**

13. The Committee would welcome information on any measures in place to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Strengthening inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in all matters that affect them (Action #41)**

14. The Committee would welcome information on efforts to ensure inclusion and participation of mine victims or their representative organisations in relevant national policies and programmes.

**Challenges in implementation of Turkey's Victim Assistance Commitments**

15. The Committee would welcome additional information on the main challenges faced by Turkey in the fulfilment of its victim assistance commitments and any suggestion it may have on how the Committee and the international community could be of further support to Turkey's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance obligations.